

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph appearing at page 4, lines 7-25, as follows:

--In order to achieve this object, in one black hexavalent chromium-free plating treatment system of the present invention, the surface of a metal part as a base is plated with zinc in a zinc plating treatment step 10 and the surface of the zinc-plated coating is activated in a treatment solution in a dilute nitric acid activation treatment step 11. Then the activated metal part is rinsed, or is washed with water, so that nitric acid components are removed. Subsequently, a black coating is formed on the rinsed metal part in an inorganic salt solution containing trivalent chromium and iron components as main ingredients in a black chromate treatment step 20. After the subsequent rerinsing, the rerinsed black-coated metal part is subjected to a finish treatment by forming a transparent conversion coating on the rerinsed metal part in a solution of inorganic salt and organic acid containing trivalent chromium and silica as main ingredients in a finish treatment step 30. The resulting metal part is dried in a drying step 34. Thus, a black trivalent chromate-treated coating is obtained which improves the corrosion resistance of the surface of the metal part.--

Please amend the paragraph appearing at page 5, line 1 to page 6, line 2, as follows:

--In addition, in order to achieve the object previously mentioned, in another black hexavalent chromium-free plating treatment system of the present invention, the surface of a metal part as a base is plated with zinc in a zinc plating treatment step 10 and the surface of the zinc-plated coating is activated in a treatment solution in a dilute nitric acid activation treatment step 11. Then the activated metal part is rinsed, so that nitric acid components are removed. Subsequently, a black regulation coating is formed on the rinsed metal part in a solution of

inorganic salt and organic acid containing trivalent chromium and silica components as main ingredients in a chemical conversion treatment step 13 which is arranged next to the rinsing step. After a rinse of the coated metal part, a black coating is formed on the rinsed coated metal part in an inorganic salt solution containing trivalent chromium and iron components as main ingredients in a black chromate treatment step 20. Subsequently, the black coated metal part is rerinsed and then the rerinsed metal part is subjected to a finish treatment in a finish treatment step 30 by forming a transparent conversion coating on the rerinsed metal part in a solution of inorganic salt and organic acid which contains trivalent chromium and silica as main ingredients and is less concentrated than the solution used in the foregoing conversion treatment step 13. Then the finished metal part is dried in a drying step 34. This procedure can also yield a black trivalent chromate-treated coating which improves the corrosion resistance of the surface of the metal part.--